

Lake Saint George Watershed Project

#2003-06

Waterbody Name: Lake Saint George
Location: Liberty - Waldo County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed
Project Sponsor: Citizen's Association of Liberty Lakes
Project Duration: August 2003 – November 2004
319 Grant Amount: \$20,404
Local Match: \$15,396



PROBLEM:

Lake St. George is a large lake with a surface area of 1055 acres. It is an important economic, recreational and ecological resource in Waldo County and the State. Relative to its size, the lake has a small watershed area (3.2 square miles) and slow flushing rate of 0.32 flushes/year. Water quality information has been collected since 1976. Overall, the lake has very good water quality with both low algae and phosphorus levels. Transparency averages 8.0 to 9.5 meters which is well above State average.

In 2001 University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Citizen's Association of Liberty Lakes (CALL) conducted a watershed survey and identified nine significant soil erosion areas around the lake. Four of these areas were fixed by the property owners after the survey. Low priority sites were addressed by notifying property owners and distributing information about Best Management Practices (BMPs).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The two main objectives of the project were to reduce sediment loading from the remaining high impact sites, and educate the community about NPS pollution. BMPs were installed at the five high priority town owned sites. These sites include the town beach and parking area, and ditches/culverts on Marshall Shore Road and Stickney Hill Road. At the town beach, erosion control mix was spread and 350 plants were installed. The parking area was stabilized by regrading and adding new material or pavement, armoring and diverting runoff. On the two road areas, a total of 700' of ditch was shaped and stabilized, and culvert inlet/outlets armored.

Outreach and education included five workshops that focused on town officials and school children. A hands-on buffer workshop was held at the town beach site and was attended by 40 children and 20 adults. A second workshop covered camp road design and maintenance, and was attended by five road association representatives. The Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute (MLCI) led one workshop for 100 elementary children, a second workshop for students on their floating classroom (pontoon boat) and a similar workshop on the floating classroom with town officials.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Best management practices were installed at five high priority town owned sites. These sites included the town beach and parking area, and road ditches and culverts on two roads. All of the high priority sites from the 2001 watershed survey have now been fixed.
- The project's total estimated pollutant load reduction was 43.3 tons of sediment per year (Region 5 Method).
- A series of five workshops on buffers, camp road maintenance, and water quality issues have educated and raised public awareness. The target audience was primarily school children and town officials which should help generate continued interest and stewardship of the resource.
- A school age program on water quality issues has been launched as a result of this project.
- The lake association and town have identified several other potential sites for improvement and will be looking at them for future efforts.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Citizen's Association of Liberty Lakes
Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute
Town of Liberty
Waldo County University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Walker Elementary School

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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